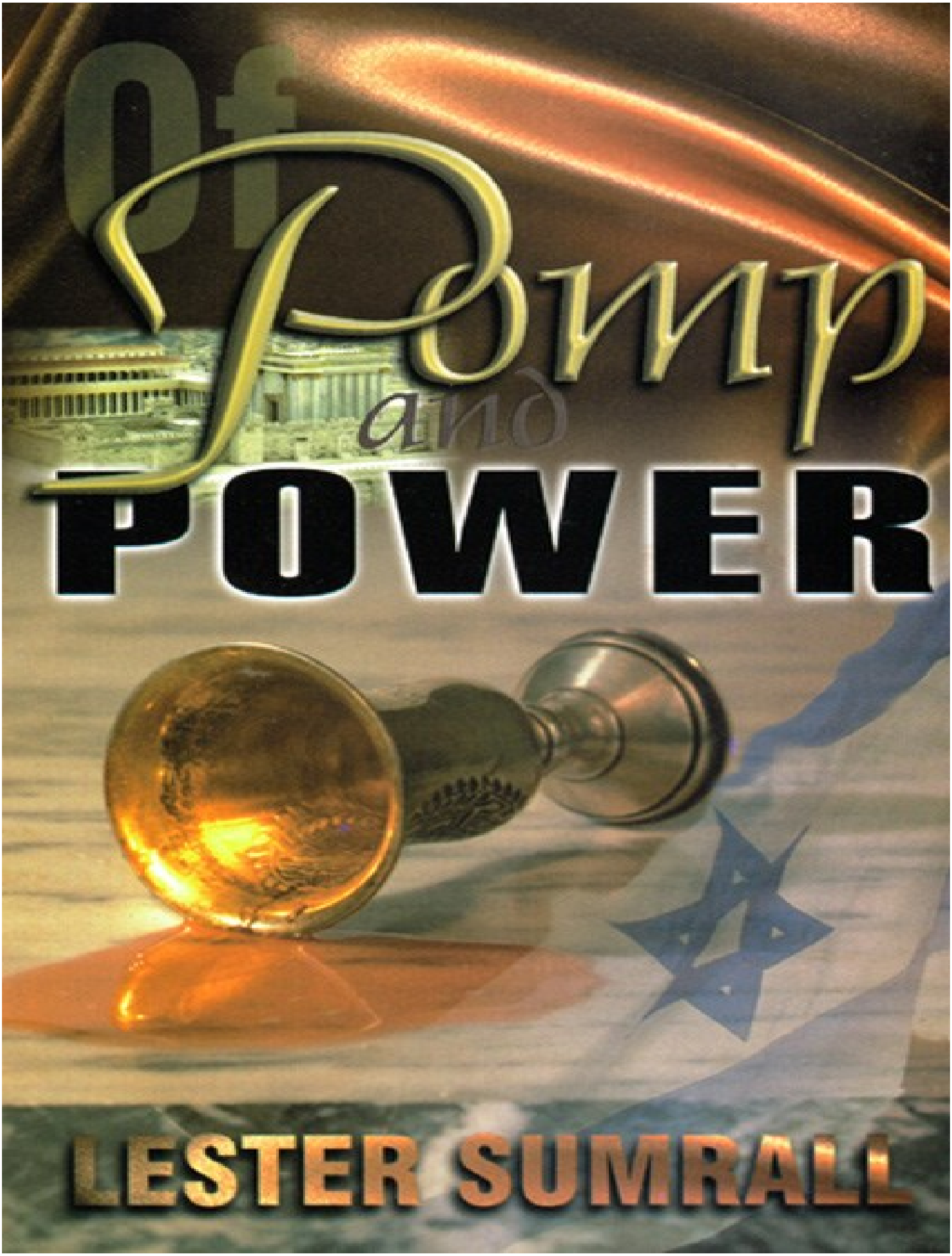
Of Pomp and POWER



LESTER SUMRALL

. . .OF POMP AND POWER RULERS OF PLANET EARTH

By Dr. Lester Sumrall

This special teaching study guide is a college workbook. The space prepared for your personal notes enables the text to grow into your own material.

A video and audiotape is available to assist you.

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OF POMP AND POWER
RULERS OF PLANET EARTH

INTRODUCTION

In these studies, I am primarily dealing with the messianic line of rulers and not the gentile rulers of the world at large. For example, I will not be giving studies on Napoleon Bonaparte of France, or Alexander the Great (whose armies conquered the world when he was about 32 years old).

There are two vast worlds of covenant nations. They are:

1. The world of the flesh, of which most nations are ruled by military might.

2. The world of the spirit, where people are spiritually chosen and appointed by God as rulers. These we find in the study of the kings of the Bible.

It is almost alarming when we realize that most of the kings who ruled in the spiritual world hardly realized their importance to the human race nor the importance of their responsibility to help bring a world Savior, a Messiah, a King of kings.

These lessons will provide such information to help us better understand our reason for living on Planet Earth during this dispensation.

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Lesson 1

KINGS OF POMP AND POWER

1. HOW KINGS AND THRONES ARE BORN

Samuel listened to the Israelites' plea for a king to rule over them. Though he warned them of the ways of kings and predicted they would become servants of a king, the nation still demanded a monarch.

I Samuel 8:22, *And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.*

2. SAUL PROCLAIMED THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL

He ruled for forty years from 1043-1004 B.C. The nature of the kingship was to be unique in that Saul was to be “captain of His (God's) inheritance.''

I Samuel 9:16, *Tomorrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him, to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon my people, because their cry has come unto me.*

3. DAVID WAS THE SECOND KING ANOINTED BY SAMUEL THE PROPHET

A. David desired Jerusalem as his capital, because it was neutral (never having been inhabited by any of the tribes) and it was easily defended (having natural protection on three sides).

B. David's objective was to unite the twelve tribes into one nation

under God.

4. SOLOMON RULED AS THE THIRD KING

Solomon ruled as king of all of Israel from 971-931 B.C.

A. He dedicated the Temple in 966 B.C. with an offering of 32,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep in a two-week long ceremony.

II Chronicles 7:1, 9, *Now when Soloman had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.*

v.9, *And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.*

B. His wealth and wisdom exceeded that of any other king.

II Chronicles 9:22, *And King Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.*

C. The territory of Solomon's domain stretched from Egypt to the Euphrates River.

II Chronicles 9:26, *And he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.*

D. At Solomon's death, the kingdom divided into the Northern and Southern kingdoms. The Northern kingdom generally became known as Israel, although it was also designated as Ephraim. The Southern kingdom, with its capital at Jerusalem, became known as Judah.

5. JEROBOAM BECAME KING OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

Jeroboam was recognized as the first king of the Northern kingdom, which lasted about two centuries. He reigned 20 years from 931-910 B.C. Because he feared that his people might go to Jerusalem to worship and change their political loyalty, Jeroboam instituted idolatry. He made Israel to sin.

6. NADAB—THE SECOND KING OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

Nadab, Jeroboam's son, ruled for two years before he was assassinated by Baasha. He reigned in Israel from 910-909 B.C.

7. BAASHA—THE THIRD KING OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

Baasha was ruler over the Northern Kingdom from 909-886 B.C. He may have moved the capital to Tirzah. The prophet Jehu proclaimed that God had entrusted Baasha with kingship, and he must turn from his sin and idolatry.

8. ELAH WAS BAASHA'S SON

He ruled less than two years, from 886-885 B.C. While he was intoxicated, Elah was killed by Zimri.

9. ZIMRI RULED SEVEN DAYS

During 885 B.C., Zimri murdered King Elah and massacred the remaining friends and relatives of the ruling family. When he realized that Omri had taken the city, Zimri went into the palace and burned it to the ground.

I Kings 16:18, *And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died.*

10. TIBNI RULED A PORTION OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

A strong leader by the name of Tibni ruled part of the Northern kingdom for six years from 885-880 B.C.

I Kings 16:21, *Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri.*

11. OMRI REUNITED THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

Omri ruled for twelve years from 885-874 B.C.

A. When Tibni died, Omri gained control of the entire Northern kingdom.

I Kings 16:22, *But the people that followed Omri prevailed against the people that followed Tibni the son 0f Ginath: so Tibni died, and Omri reigned.*

B. Omri built the city of Samaria in a strategic position and it remained the capital of Israel for over one and one-half centuries (150 years).

C. The royal family of Omri was notorious for its wickedness.

I Kings 16:25, But *Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him.*

12. AHAB CONTINUED IN WICKEDNESS

Ahab, Omri's son, ruled twenty-two years from 874-853 B.C.

A. The rule of Ahab was more sinful than that of any other king. He built an altar to Baal and a pagan shrine for pleasure.

I Kings 16:30-31, *And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*

v. 31, *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.*

B. During a drought in the region of Ahab, Elijah dramatically challenged Baalism by setting up a contest between Baal and the Lord to see which was actually God. On that day, Elijah supervised the execution of 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves, or shrines of pleasure.

I Kings 18:19, 40, *Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*

v. 40, *And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.*

C. The only alliance between the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) occurred when Ahab's daughter, Athaliah married Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram. This strengthened Israel against Syria and allowed Ahab to expand the commercial interest of Israel. He continued trading with the Phoenicians and exacting heavy taxes from the Moabites' policies begun by Omri.

D. With his increased prosperity, Ahab fortified many cities and lavished wealth upon himself by building a house of ivory.

I Kings 22:39, *Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he made, and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?*

The nation of Israel went into bondage and slavery. Until this day the nation has not had a son of David setting on the throne of his fathers in Jerusalem.

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Lesson 2

SAUL—A KING LOST IN A HAYSTACK

INTRODUCTION:

God often uses seemingly insignificant events to accomplish His will for His glory. God spoke to Samuel concerning the new king, and when Saul appeared, God spoke again, indicating that he was the one who would reign over Israel. Saul reigned for thirty-two years.

READING:

I Samuel 10:21-24, *When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.*

v. 22, *Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.*

v. 23, *And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.*

v. 24, *And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.*

1. SAUL WAS A HUMBLE MAN

He ran from pomp and power.

2. THE MEANING OF HIS NAME

The name Saul means “asked” or demanded. This is relevant because the people had asked God for a king.

I Samuel 8:4-5, *Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,*

v. 5, *And said unto him, behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.*

3. SAUL WAS A MAN WHO HAD A STRIKING APPEARANCE

I Samuel 9:2, *And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.*

4. SAUL—A CHOSEN MAN

A. I Samuel 9:17, *And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.*

B. The king designate. Under the direction of God, Saul was anointed with the symbols of oil and a kiss by Samuel the incumbent leader.

I Samuel 10:1, *Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?*

5. SAUL—AN ANOINTED MAN

I Samuel 11:6, *And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings. . .*

6. SAUL BECAME A PROUD MAN

But Saul disregarded the warnings and counsel of God's man, Samuel.

I Samuel 15:13-14, *And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.*

v. 14, *And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?*

A. Saul took authority God had not given him. He offered sacrifices like a priest. The sin of presumption.

B. Saul bowed his soul to pride and greed.

7. THE PENALTY OF SAUL'S REBELLION

A. I Samuel 28:6, *And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.*

B. Samuel, his advisor, had died.

C. God had rejected Saul.

D. David, his son-in-law, won many battles, causing King Saul to be jealous.

E. King Saul turned to witches for guidance. In Saul's life, one sin led to another. Then when he finally realized he needed help, he went to the wrong source for it.

Jesus waits to receive us and forgive our faults.

F. Saul finally fell upon his own sword and died fighting the Philistines.

I Samuel 31:4-5, *Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.*

v. 5, *And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.*

G. Today—where is this generation heading?

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Lesson 3

A SHEPHERD BOY BECOMES
A GIANT KILLER

INTRODUCTION:

History is a miracle! A young man named David was the second king of Israel. He became a historic figure. Jesus is called the Son of David, not the Son of Abraham.

1. DAVID WAS ANOINTED BY SAMUEL THE PROPHET

I Samuel 16:11-13, *And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.*

v. 12, *And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.*

v. 13, *Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.*

2. A SHEPHERD BOY KILLS A LION AND A BEAR.

I Samuel 17:32-37, *And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.*

v. 33, *And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.*

v. 34, *And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:*

v. 35, *And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.*

v. 36, *Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.*

v. 37, *David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.*

3. DAVID KILLS THE GREAT GIANT GOLIATH

I Samuel 17:45-50, *Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.*

v. 46, *This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

v. 47, *And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.*

v. 48, *And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.*

v. 49, *And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.*

v. 50, *So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.*

4. DAVID BEGAN HUMBLE—THE LEAST OF SEVEN SONS

He became a musician at the court of Israel.

I Samuel 16:14-23, *But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.*

v. 15, *And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.*

v. 16, *Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on a harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.*

v. 17, *And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me.*

v. 18, *Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.*

v. 19, *Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.*

v. 20, *And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul.*

v. 21, *And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer.*

v. 22, *And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.*

v. 23, *And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.*

5. DAVID BECAME A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

I Samuel 13:14, *But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.*

6. DAVID--A TRUE FRIEND

I Samuel 18:1-4, *And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.*

v. 2, *And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.*

v. 3, *Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.*

v. 4, *And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.*

7. DAVID WINS JERUSALEM FROM THE JEBUSITES AND MAKES IT THE CAPITAL CITY OF ALL ISRAEL

II Samuel 5:7-10, *Nevertheless David took the strong hold of Zion: the same is the city of David.*

v. 8, *And David said on that day, Whosoever getteth up to the gutter, and smiteth the Jebusites, and the lame and the blind, that are hated of David's soul, he shall be chief and captain. Wherefore they said, The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.*

v. 9, *So David dwelt in the fort, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward.*

v. 10, *And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.*

8. DAVID BRINGS THE HOLY ARK OF THE COVENANT TO REST IN JERUSALEM

II Samuel 6:1-5, 14-15, *Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.*

v. 2, *And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.*

v. 3, *And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.*

v. 4, *And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.*

v. 5, *And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.*

v. 14, *And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.*

v. 15, *So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.*

For forty years David was king. Three thousand years later we name our sons David and remember a giant killer and a nation builder.

9. THROUGH DAVID CAME THE WORLD SAVIOR

Romans 1:3-4, *Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;*

v. 4, *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*

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Lesson 4

SMART AND RICH KING SOLOMON
AN EXAMPLE OF POMP AND POWER

1. SOLOMON

Solomon, the son of David, the son of Jesse of Bethlehem, became king of Israel.

I Kings 1:17-39, *And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.*

v. 18, *And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not:*

v. 19, *And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.*

v. 20, *And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.*

v. 21, *Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.*

v. 22, *And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.*

v. 23, *And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.*

v. 24, *And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?*

v. 25, *For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the*

captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.

v. 26, *But me, even me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.*

v. 27, *Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?*

v. 28, T*hen king David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.*

v. 29, *And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,*

v. 30, *Even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.*

v. 31, *Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.*

v. 32, *And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king.*

v. 33, *The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:*

v. 34, *And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.*

v. 35, *Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.*

v. 36, *And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too.*

v. 37, *As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.*

v. 38, *So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon.*

v. 39, *And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle,*

and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.

2. SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF RELATIONSHIP TO JEHOVAH

I Kings 3:5-15, In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

v. 6, *And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

v. 7, *And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.*

v. 8, *And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.*

v. 9, *Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people.*

v. 10, *And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.*

v. 11, *And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;*

v. 12, *Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*

v. 13, *And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.*

v. 14, *And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.*

v. 15, *And Solomon awoke; and, behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.*

3. THE KINGS, QUEENS AND POLITICAL LEADERS PRAISED SOLOMON

I Kings 4:29-31, *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.*

v. 30, *And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

v. 31, *For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.*

4. SOLOMON REVEALED HIS WISDOM TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL

I Kings 3:16-28, *Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.*

v. 17, *And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.*

v. 18, *And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.*

v. 19, *And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.*

v. 20, *And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom*.

v. 21, *And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.*

v. 22, *And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.*

v. 23, *Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.*

v. 24, *And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.*
v. 25, *And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.*

v. 26, *Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.*

v. 27, *Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.*

v. 28, *And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to do judgment.*

5. SOLOMON REVEALED HIS WISDOM TO A FOREIGN QUEEN

I Kings 10:1-13, *And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.*

v. 2, *And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.*

v. 3, *And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not.*

v. 4, *And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,*

v. 5, *And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.*

v. 6, *And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.*

v. 7, *Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.*

v. 8, *Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee and that hear thy wisdom.*

v. 9, *Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.*

v. 10, *And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more*

such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

v. 11, *And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones.*

v. 12, *And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.*

v. 13, *And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.*

6. SOLOMON BUILT THE WORLD'S GREATEST HOUSE OF WORSHIP

I Kings 6:1b, *. . .in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.*

I Kings 6:38, *And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.*

7. SOLOMON IS PROLIFIC WITH PROVERBS AND COMPOSED 1005 SONGS

I Kings 4:32, *And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five*.

8. SOLOMON HAD 1000 WIVES AND CONCUBINES

I Kings 11:1-4, *But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites:*

v. 2, *Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*

v. 3, *And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.*

v. 4, *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

CONCLUSION:

Solomon represents the golden period of the Jewish state. By his unique wisdom he strengthened the kingdom. Solomon made alliances with surrounding nations and they engaged in commerce with other nations. Solomon began his kingship by praying for wisdom and he honored God. He had fine qualities of the mind and leadership. God's favor is found, not in earthly gifts, but in obedience.

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OF POMP AND POWER
RULERS OF PLANET EARTH

Lesson 5

KING JEROBOAM MAKES ISRAEL TO SIN

READING:

I Kings 12:26, *And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David:*

INTRODUCTION:

Jeroboam was the son of Nebat. He spread seeds of evil like thistles. The religion of Jeroboam was like all other Godless religions.

1. WHO WAS JEROBOAM?

Jeroboam was a man of valor.

I Kings 11:28, *And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.*

2. REBELLION HAS ITS ORIGIN IN THE HUMAN HEART

A. True religion has its origin in the Will of God.

B. Man's religion has its source in the “I Think” of man.

C. Self is always the center of every Godless religion.

3. IT WAS FOR HIS OWN SELFISH ENDS

A. Jeroboam set up his golden calves.

B. One in Bethel and one in Dan.

C. He did not want the people to go to Jerusalem to worship God and turn their hearts from him.

I Kings 12:27-29, *If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house*

of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

v. 28, *Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

v. 29, *And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.*

D. God's command was plain. This was contrary to the Word of God.

Exodus 20:4, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

E. John 14:6, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

4. IT BECAME A SNARE TO OTHERS

A. This thing became sin.

I Kings 11:30, *And Ahijah caught the new garment that was on him, and rent it in twelve pieces:*

B. It became the object of worship instead of a means to reach God. Man is often taken up with his own works and interests. But whatever it is----if it takes the place of GOD, it becomes sin.

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Lesson 6

KING HEZEKIAH
KING AND REFORMER

READING:

II Kings 18:1-2, 4-12, *Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.*

v. 2, *Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah.*

v. 4, *He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.*

v. 5, *He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.*

v. 6, *For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.*

v. 7, *And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.*

v. 8, *He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.*

v. 9, *And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it.*

v. 10, *And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of*

Hezekiah, that is the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

v. 11, *And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:*

v. 12, *Because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them.*

INTRODUCTION:

Hezekiah turned to God in the four great crises of his life.

1. CRISIS OF CHOICE

A. Hezekiah did that which was right in the sight of God.

II Kings 18:3, *And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.*

B. Hezekiah forsook the idols of his father and purged the kingdom from idolatry. He caused all uncleanness to be cast out of the temple and all the vessels to be replaced. The things which dishonored God were broken and destroyed.

C. Today a gold or silver cross is not any better than a brazen serpent as an object of worship—–sin is sin. Money, pleasure or worldly honor are idols.

D. Hezekiah enjoyed success from God. There can be no failure when the Lord is with us.

II Kings 18:7, *And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.*

E. All godless prosperity is either wood, hay or stubble. True success is gained through faith in God.

2. CRISIS OF MILITARY INVASION

A. Showed the right kind of independence.

II Chronicles 32:20, *And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.*

B. Hezekiah rebelled against the King of Assyria and served him not.

II Chronicles 32:7, *Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor*

dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him:

C. Hezekiah broke the yoke of Assyria and the angel of the Lord smote 185,000 Assyrians. The man who is most dependent on God is the man that is most independent of man.

II Chronicles 32:21, *And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.*

D. Hezekiah made a tunnel to divert the only source of water the Assyrian army had when it came to attack. The tunnel was 1700 feet long and can still be entered.

3. CRISIS OF ILLNESS

A. Hezekiah was sick unto death.

Isaiah 38:1a, *In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death.*

B. The Prophet Isaiah told him to set his house in order.

Isaiah 38:1b, *And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.*

C. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed.

Isaiah 38:2, *Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD*.

D. God heard and told Isaiah he had heard Hezekiah's prayer and saw his tears, and he would give him 15 more years.

4. CRISIS OF PROSPERITY

A. The King of Babylon sent letters and presents.

Isaiah 39;1, *At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.*

B. Hezekiah showed his enemies his abundance of precious things, gold, silver and treasures.

Isaiah 39:2, *And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the*

spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour,

and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

C. God was highly displeased with boastfulness.

Isaiah 39:5-7, *Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:*

v. 6, *Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD*.

v. 7, And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

CONCLUSION:

Are there "places or images" in our hearts or homes that occupy a higher position in our esteem than the things of God? Put things "in their right place."

Matthew 6:33, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

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Lesson 7

AHAB ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL LATER MARRIED QUEEN JEZEBEL

INTRODUCTION:

Ahab was the son of Omri and the second from that dynasty to rule in the Northern Kingdom. He was the seventh monarch in Israel, reigning from 919 B.C. to 897 B.C. His wife, Jezebel, influenced him to promote the pagan worship of Baal and Astaric and to silence the prophets of Jehovah.

1. AHAB MARRIES A PAGAN PRINCESS

I Kings 16:30-33, *And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*

v. 31, *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.*

v. 32, *And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.*

v. 33, *And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.*

A. Elijah began the war against Jezebel.

I Kings 17:1, *And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

The challenger against wicked Ahab.

The entire nation understood the war after three years of drought and famine in Israel. When Jezebel became queen of Israel, she discovered the Jehovah religion. The Law of Moses. Deep hatred of God came into her heart and she declared a religious war.

2. JEZEBEL THE HEATHEN QUEEN COMES AGAINST JEHOVAH GOD

Jezebel destroyed the prophets of Jehovah on a national scale with the sanction of King Ahab her husband. Jezebel, a pagan idol worshiper, decided to establish Baalism and replaced Jehovah worship.

I Kings 18:4, *For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.*

3. ELIJAH CHALLENGED AHAB AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL

I Kings 18:1-2, 5,10,17-18, *And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.*

v. 2, *And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.*

v. 5, *And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.*

v. 10, *As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.*

v. 17, *And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*

v. 18, *And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.*

4. ELIJAH RETALIATED AGAINST JEZEBEL

Elijah destroyed Jezebel's imported prophets of Baal and Prophets of the Groves.

I Kings 18:19-26, *Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*

v. 20, *So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.*

v. 21, *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*

v. 22, *Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.*

v. 23, *Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:*

v. 24, *And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.*

v. 25, *And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.*

v. 26, *And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.*

Baal failed. No fire came down from Heaven.

5. ELIJAH MADE THE CHALLENGE TO BAAL

I Kings 18:27-30, *And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.*

v. 28, *And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.*

v. 29, *And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.*

v. 30, *And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.*

A. Elijah prayed—the fire came.

I Kings 18:36-40, *And it came to pass at the time of the offering of*

the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

v. 37, *Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.*

v. 38, *Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

v. 39, *And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, He is the God; the LORD, He is the God.*

v. 40, *And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.*

6. JEZEBEL BECAME SO ANGRY SHE SWORE TO KILL ELIJAH, HER ANTAGONIST, WITHIN 24 HOURS

I Kings 19:1-2, *And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.*

v. 2, *Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time*.

7. AHAB SEIZES NABOTH'S VINEYARD

Naboth and his vineyard. Ahab wanted to trade for it or purchase it. Naboth refused the king.

I Kings 21:1-4, *And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.*

v. 2, *And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.*

v. 3, *And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.*

v. 4, *And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him*

down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

A. Jezebel found the depressed king and promised to solve the problem. Jezebel masterminds a murder. She forged Ahab's name.

I Kings 21:8-12, *So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.*

v. 9, *And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:*

v. 10, *And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.*

v. 11, *And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them.*

v. 12, *They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.*

B. Naboth murdered.

I Kings 21:13-16, *And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.*

v. 14, *Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.*

v. 15, *And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.*

C. The Titans battle at the vineyard.

I Kings 21:17-19, *And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,*

v. 18, *Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.*

v. 19, *And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt*

speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.

King Ahab was to die in the same place as Naboth.

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Lesson 8

QUEEN ATHALIAH RULES NATION OF ISRAEL A MURDERER AND DAUGHTER OF JEZEBEL

INTRODUCTION:

Queens have also ruled nations. Some of them brought prosperity and freedom to their people. England's Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria created time periods.

Others became a terror to their nation. The dowager Empress of China, Bloody Mary of England and our present lesson, Queen Athaliah, a murderer. Her mother was the wicked queen, Jezebel. As leaders go----so goes the people. Evil leaders produce evil nations. Athaliah, the daughter of Jezebel, brought to Judah the same sin and idolatry her mother introduced into Israel.

1. ATHALIAH MARRIED KING JEHORAM OF JUDAH

A. Athaliah and King Jehoram of Judah produced a son, Ahaziah, who ruled in the wicked tradition of his mother's family from Israel. God judged her husband for following her evil influence.

II Chronicles 21:12-20, *And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah,*

v. 13, *But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself:*

v. 14, *Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods:*

v. 15, *And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.*

v. 16, *Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians*:

v. 17, *And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.*

v. 18, *And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.*

v. 19, *And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.*

v. 20, *Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years, and departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.*

B. Her son followed in the wickedness of Athaliah even after seeing the judgment of his father.

II Chronicles 22:1-2, *And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.*

v. 2, *Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.*

C. It was Athaliah who was behind Ahaziah's idolatry.

II Chronicles 22:3-4, *He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly*.

v. 4, *Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.*

D. God judged Ahaziah by the same Jehu who stood against

Jezebel and Ahab.

II Chronicles 22:7-9, *And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.*

v. 8, *And it came to pass, that, when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah, and the sons of the brethren of Ahaziah, that ministered to Ahaziah, he slew them.*

v. 9, *And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hid in Samaria,) and brought him to Jehu: and when they had slain him, they buried him: Because, said they, is he the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart. So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.*

2. AFTER AHAZIAH'S DEATH, ATHALIAH SEIZED THE THRONE

A. She killed all her remaining grandchildren who could challenge her for the throne.

II Chronicles 22:10, *But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah.*

B. However, God always knows how to save His righteous seed.

3. JOASH WAS HIDDEN FROM HER DESTRUCTIVE PLOTS

During the six years of her reign, her grandson Joash was hidden from her destructive plots.

II Chronicles 22:11-12, *But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not.*

v. 12, *And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land.*

4. JOASH MADE KING IN A COUP LED BY THE HIGH PRIEST

II Chronicles 23:1-11, *And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of*

Zichri, into covenant with him.

A. Jehoiada led a movement among the people of Judah to replace Athaliah.

II Chronicles 23:1-3, *And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him.*

v. 2, *And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.*

v. 3, *And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David.*

B. At the time of the changing of the priests, when the total priesthood was present, the new king was to be installed.

II Chronicles 23:4-7, *This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you entering on the sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, shall be porters of the doors;*

v. 5, *And a third part shall be at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation: and all the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD.*

v. 6, *But let none come into the house of the LORD, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they are holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD.*

v. 7, *And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever else cometh into the house, he shall be put to death: but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out.*

C. The total priesthood and the people of Judah were behind the coup.

II Chronicles 23:8-10, *So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that were to go out on the sabbath: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses.*

v. 9, *Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king*

David's, which were in the house of God.
v. 10, *And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and the temple, by the king round about.*

D. They called on God to preserve their new king.

II Chronicles 23:11, *Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king.*

5. ATHALIAH DIED AS JUDGMENT FOR HER WICKEDNESS

A. She screamed that the people were committing treason.

II Chronicles 23:12-13, *Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the LORD:*

v. 13, *And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of musick, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.*

B. It was her treason against God that brought her into judgment.

II Chronicles 23:14-15, *Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth of the ranges: and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, Slay her not in the house of the LORD.*

v. 15, *So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there.*

6. THE REMOVAL OF ATHALIAH BROUGHT JOY TO THE PEOPLE

II Chronicles 23:21, *And all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword.*

7. JOASH DEDICATED HIMSELF TO REBUILDING WHAT ATHALIAH HAD DESTROYED

A. Jehoiada wanted to rebuild and rededicate all that Athaliah had destroyed.

II Chronicles 24:6-7, *And the king called for Jehoiada the chief,*

and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

v. 7, *For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.*

B. A collection was made to sponsor the refurbishing of the sacred house.

II Chronicles 24:12, *And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.*

Athaliah----an evil queen who murdered her own grandchildren to secure the throne. She was the only woman to reign over Judah (841-835 B.C.)

She died as her mother Jezebel----fully clothed, at the horse gate of Jerusalem. The military slew her. Her sins found her out. Truly, the wages of sin is death.

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OF POMP AND POWER
RULERS OF PLANET EARTH

Lesson 9

THE MURDERING HERODIAN KINGS

INTRODUCTION:

The Romans allowed the Israelis the privilege of having a king to rule over them, a right that had been taken away by the Babylonians and had only partially been restored during the Greek period. The family placed in power by the Roman Empire was the family of Herod the Great. Three Herods ruled Judea during the time of Jesus and the apostles.

1. HEROD THE GREAT

A. Son of Antipater—from Arab stock. His mother was Arabian. He ruled thirty-three years and was appointed king by Julius Caesar.

B. Herod the Great ruled for a period of thirty-three years just prior to the birth of Jesus. He was a brutal dictator whose rule was marked with suspicion and jealousy. He even executed members of his immediate family (including his wife and son) to protect his throne.

C. Herod had forts and palaces in:

1) Masada

2) Ashkelon by the Mediterranean Sea.

3) Sepphoris near Nazareth in Galilee.

4) Jericho had three elaborate palaces for resting.

5) Jerusalem—had a grand palace.

2. HEROD THE GREAT IS MOST NOTABLY REMEMBERED FOR TWO ACTS

A. He rebuilt the Temple in Jerusalem, a project which required a thousand trained priests, ten thousand other workers, and nine quarry and forest workers to repair the materials. For nearly twenty years, he personally financed the project; yet, his death left the Temple far from complete. In fact, its completion came only a few years prior to its destruction in 70 A.D.

B. Herod the Great's jealousy led him to slaughter all the innocent male children under two years old when he learned that another king was born in Bethlehem.

3. HEROD ANTIPAS--SON OF HEROD THE GREAT

A. The son of Herod the Great, Herod Antipas succeeded his father and continued in his father's tradition of cruelty and dictatorship. The Emperor of Rome finally banished him to Gaul in 39 A.D. as a result of his reckless playboy tyranny. He stole the wife of King Philip, his brother.

B. Herod Antipas ruled during the time of John the Baptist and Jesus. He was the adulterous king who ordered the death of John the Baptist.

C. Matthew 14:3, *For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.*

D. Matthew 14:4, *For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.*

E. Matthew 14:5, *And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.*

F. Matthew 14:6, *But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.*

G. Matthew 14:7, *Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.*

H. Herod heard of Jesus and was concerned that he was John the Baptist come back to life.

Luke 9:7-9, *Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead;*

v. 8, *And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again.*

v. 9, *And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.*

I. This tyrant wanted to kill Jesus.

Luke 13:31-32, *The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.*

v. 32, *And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.*

J. Jesus stood trial before Herod just before his crucifixion.

Luke 23:6-12, *When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean.*

v. 7, *And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.*

v. 8, *And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.*

v. 9, *When he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.*

v. 10, *And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him*.

v. 11, *And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.*

v. 12, *And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.*

4. HEROD AGRIPPA

A. This king was a grandson of Herod the Great and a nephew to Herod Antipas. He was placed in power by the Emperor Caligula. Unlike the Herods before him, Agrippa lived by the Jewish customs and laws.

B. He is remembered today for his hatred of the early church.

C. He executed James the brother of John.

Acts 12:1-2, *Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.*

v. 2, *And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.*

D. He intended to execute Peter.

Acts 12:3-10, *And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)*

v. 4, *And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.*

v. 5, *Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*

v. 6, *And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.*

v. 7, *And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.*

v. 8, *And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.*

v. 9, *And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.*

v. 10, *When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.*

Peter returned to the apostles.

E. This Herod died as a judgment from God for his pride.

Acts 12:20-23, *And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.*

v. 21, *And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.*

v. 22, *And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.*

v. 23, *And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and up*

the ghost.

CONCLUSION:

The glorious CHURCH marched forward into the centuries----writing the New Testament----while the infamous family of Herodian fell into the dust of the ashes of history.

OF POMP AND POWER
RULER OF PLANET EARTH

Lesson 10

JESUS OF NAZARETH—KING OF THE JEWS

READING:

John 19:19, *And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

1. A PROPHECY OF COMING MESSIAH

A. Zechariah 9:9, *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.*

B. Jesus Christ came as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies that one final king would appear to the Jewish people.

C. John 1:11 says that He came to His own but they refused Him. One day soon, He will return to Planet Earth and be enthroned not only as King of the Jews, but as King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

2. JESUS' HERITAGE PLACES HIM IN THE LINE OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Matthew 1:1, 16, *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

v. 16, *And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.*

3. AT JESUS' BIRTH HE WAS HAILED BY THE WISE MEN FROM THE EAST AS THE KING OF THE JEWS

Matthew 2:1-2, *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in*

the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem,

v. 2, *Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

4. JESUS' KINGSHIP RELATED TO KING DAVID

Jesus is repeatedly called "Son of David." This emphasized His royal lineage.

A. Matthew 9:27, *And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us.*

B. Matthew 12:23, *And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the Son of David?*

C. Matthew 20:31, *And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David*.

5. JESUS PROCLAIMED THE KINGDOM OF GOD OR HEAVEN

During his ministry, Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven over 100 times.

A. Matthew 3:2, *And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

B. Matthew 5:3, *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

C. Matthew 12:28, *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

6. JESUS' TRIAL BEFORE PILATE REVEALED HIS KINGSHIP

A. Pilate questioned Jesus about the royal claim as a King.

John 18:33, *Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?*

B. Jesus confirmed that he was a king, but not like Pilate thought.

John 18:36-37, *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

v. 37, *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

C. John 19:4-5, 14, *Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.*

v. 5, *Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!*

v. 14, *And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!*

7. CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD PROCLAIMING HIS KINGSHIP AS KING OF KINGS

A. Matthew 28:18, *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

B. Revelation 1:5, *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*

8. CHRIST'S ULTIMATE KINGSHIP

A. Upon Christ's Return to Earth

Revelation 19:11-16, *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

v. 12, *His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

v. 13, *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

v. 14, *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*

v. 15, *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

v. 16, *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

9. CHRIST SHALL RULE FROM JERUSALEM FOR A MILLENIUM

A. Revelation 20:4, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

B. The King returns.

Revelation 22:20, *He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*